



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/536,655	12/29/2005	Bayer	AP10588	9085

7590
Gerlinde M Nattler
Craig Hallacher
Continental Teves Inc
One Continental Drive
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

06/04/2008

EXAMINER

LE, DAVID D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3681

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

06/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/536,655	Applicant(s) BAYER ET AL.	
	Examiner David D. Le	Art Unit 3681	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20,28 and 32-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20,28 and 32-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is the third Office action on the merits of Application No. 10/536,655, filed 29 December 2005. Claims 20, 28, and 32-35 are pending.

Documents

2. The following documents have been received and filed as part of the patent application:
- Foreign Priority Document, received on 05/27/05
 - Information Disclosure Statement, received on 05/27/05
 - Declaration and Power of Attorney, received on 12/29/05
 - English Translation of Foreign Priority Document, received on 04/24/08

Response to Amendment

3. In light of Applicant's submission of the English translation of the German priority document, the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is withdrawn.

Oath/Declaration

4. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because it fails to include the all eight inventors, as indicated in the Application Data Sheet, filed on 27 May 2005. The following inventors have been excluded from the present declaration, filed on 29 December 2005:

- Wilfried Synovzik;
- Markus Kummel; and
- Andreas Margander.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. **Claims 20, 28, and 32-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,117,036 to Lanzon et al. (hereinafter referred to as Lanzon) in view of Japanese Patent Application No. 59[1984]-117951 (hereinafter referred to as JP'951).**

Claims 20, 28, and 32-35:

Lanzon (i.e., Figs. 1-4; column 2, line 36 – column 5, line 26) discloses a planetary gear assembly comprising:

- A first sun gear (i.e., Fig. 2, element 74);
- A second sun gear (i.e., Fig. 2, element 100);
- A first planet gear (i.e., Fig. 2, element 78);
- A second planet gear (i.e., Fig. 2, element 106);
- Wherein the first and second planet gears are arranged coaxially on a common planetary carrier (i.e., Fig. 2, element 82);

Art Unit: 3681

- Wherein the first and second planet gears have support bearings (i.e., Fig. 2, elements 80a and 80b); and
- Wherein the first planet gear is offset radially from the second planet gear by a positive profile displacement (i.e., column 4, lines 25-30).

Lanzon lacks:

- Wherein the first toothed gear has a softer surface than the second toothed gear; and
- Wherein the first toothed gear is made of plastic and the second toothed gear is made of metal.

JP'951 (Figs. 1-4; pages 1-3), on the other hand, teaches a reduction mechanism comprising:

- A first toothed gear (i.e., Fig. 3, being elements 13);
- A second toothed gear (i.e., Fig. 3, element 12);
- Wherein the first gear has a softer surface than the second gear (i.e., Page 3, see summary of the invention and application examples); and
- Wherein the first gear is made of plastic and the second gear is made of conventional metal material (i.e., Page 3, see summary of the invention and application examples).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lanzon such that the planet gear includes a first toothed gear, which is made of plastic material and a second toothed gear, which is made of conventional metal material, in view of JP'951, in order to effectively eliminate the backlash generated by the toothed gears. Furthermore, since all the claimed elements were known in the prior art and one skilled in the art could have combined the elements as claimed by known methods with no change in their respective functions, and the combination would have yielded predictable results to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20, 28, and 32-35 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment, filed on 13 November 2007, necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

Art Unit: 3681

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David D. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-7092. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (0900-1730).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles A. Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

ddl

/David D. Le/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3681
05/28/2008

Application/Control Number: 10/536,655
Art Unit: 3681

Page 7